

Health Care Career Pathway

MISSOURI ECONOMIC RESEARCH & INFORMATION CENTER
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
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What are Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are groups of occupations within a career field. Occupations within a pathway share common skills, knowledge, and interests. The pathways use industry-recognized credentials and are examples of how different levels of training or education can help provide opportunities for career advancement.

Missouri Numbers:



12,720 Employers



329,392 Workers



\$59,929 Average Wage

Why Have a Career in Health Care?

Health Care is the largest employing industry in Missouri. The Health Care target industry has over 12,000 employers that provide jobs to nearly 330,000 workers across the state, with the sector projected to grow by 14.4 percent from 2018 to 2028. Employment in the Health Care industry increased by 1.5 percent per year from 2014 to 2019, and employs 13.7 percent of all total private sector workers.

Missouri's Health Care industry has particularly high employment concentrations in General Medical and Surgical Hospitals, as well as Nursing and Residential Care Facilities. Wages in this industry averaged \$59,929 in 2019, higher than the state average of \$51,139 for all industries. An aging patient population and retiring health care workers contribute to the growing and projected need.

The health care industry provides a variety of work opportunities for every interest. From jobs that directly care for patients to careers that keep the whole system going, important jobs are waiting to be filled in Patient Care, Diagnostic/Therapeutic and Business Operation.

Know the Basics

Health Care careers often involve interactions with patients and other team members so active listening and communication skills are important. Health Care includes many essential occupations that need to be staffed around the clock so dependability and reliability are a must. Soft skills, such as interpersonal skills, professionalism, and dependability, are important in all industries and occupations.

Skills needed for Success:

In addition, Health Care has a set of industry-wide technical competencies that represent the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in this industry. With the need for privacy and confidentiality in these industries, workers need to have knowledge of health industry ethics, laws and regulations, and be able to keep accurate and confidential documentation. Patient interaction, infection control, understanding of drugs and medications, and knowledge of diagnostic procedures, scientific methods and technology are only some of the skills needed for success in this industry.

Who's Hiring in Missouri?

Mercy Health

BJC Healthcare

Saint Luke's Health System

Hospital Corporation America

SSM Healthcare



Patient Care

Diagnostic/ Therapeutic

Business Operations

Now

Short-Term On-the-Job Training

Home Health & Personal Care Aides

Entry: \$20,820; Average: \$24,670

Certificates: Home Health Aide, Certified Caregiver, First Aid CPR AED, Nursing Assistant

Psychiatric Aides

Entry: \$23,770; Average: \$29,320

Certificates: First Aid CPR AED

Receptionists & Information Clerks

Entry: \$22,530; Average: \$28,300

Customer Service Representatives

Entry: \$27,820; Average: \$35,910

Certificates: Certified Healthcare Access Associate (CHAA), First Aid CPR AED

Next

Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long- Term On-the-Job Training

Nursing Assistants

Entry: \$21,780; Average: \$26,490

Licensed Practical & Vocational Nurses

Entry: \$37,600; Average: \$43,410

Emergency Medical Technicians

Entry: \$27,090; Average: \$37,120

Certificates: Nursing Assistant, Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

Dental Assistants

Entry: \$32,590; Average: \$39,250

Dental Hygienists

Entry: \$59,850; Average: \$69,660

Pharmacy Technicians

Entry: \$25,980; Average: \$32,790

Certificates: Dental Hygienist, Dental Assistant American, First Aid CPR AED

Medical Records & Health Info. Technicians

Entry: \$32,830; Average: \$43,900

Computer User Support Specialists

Entry: \$36,210; Average: \$49,740

Medical Secretaries

Entry: \$28,730; Average: \$35,790

Certificates: Registered Health Information Technician, Certified Professional Coder, Certified A+ Technician, Network +, Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP)

Later

Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

Registered Nurses

Entry: \$51,770; Average: \$64,160

Physical Therapists

Entry: \$70,220; Average: \$84,180

Family Medicine Physicians

Entry: \$140,900; Average: \$209,990

Degrees: Nursing Science, Physical Therapy, Medicine

Dentists

Entry: \$107,710; Average: \$169,360

Pharmacists

Entry: \$115,240; Average: \$128,670

Healthcare Social Workers

Entry: \$35,940; Average: \$47,380

Degrees: Social Work, Pharmacy, Mental Health, Dental Medicine

Software Developers

Entry: \$70,450; Average: \$92,510

Medical & Health Services Managers

Entry: \$76,550; Average: \$111,450

Accountants & Auditors

Entry: \$49,030; Average: \$69,160

Degrees: Computer Science, Information Technology, Accounting, Business Administration & Management

Sources:

Burning Glass Technologies Labor/Insight™ tool
Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse
2019 Occupational Employment Survey Wage data, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Top employers data is based on 2020 online job ads



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